METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VIRTUAL PATH AGGREGATION (VPA) CONNECTION ADMISSION CONTROL (CAC)

Abstract of the Invention

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A method and apparatus for supporting virtual path aggregations (VPAs) in a communications network is presented. To establish a VPA in the network, a request for the VPA is received, where the request indicates a desired data path between a source switch and a destination switch. Based on the request, it is determined whether or not

10   there are resources available to create the VPA. If the resources are present, the VPA is created. Once created, connections may be established using the VPA by first determining whether or not the needs of the connection are satisfied by the capabilities of the VPA. If the VPA is capable of supporting the connection, the connection is established using the VPA. If the VPA is not capable of supporting the connection, the

15   connection may either be established using other resources or rejected.